AMENDMENTS to the SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 is modified to correct the spelling of "mulitiplicity" to "multiplicity".

Also, there remains a need for such a system and/or method having flexibility of form or format within the patent application being generated with computer assistance such that the user(s) has an opportunity to define relationships between and among subcomponents that may have a significant effect upon patentability as well as the user's understanding of the invention that is claimed for the purposes of enforcement or explaining it to others. Additionally, there remains a need for such a system and/or method that permits a ~~mulitplicity~~ multiplicity of users to work on the same patent or technology simultaneously or in series, which is permitted only by a common understanding of the format, the substance, and the language or terminology selected by the user(s) to define the invention, patent, and/or technology such that little or no additional communication is required among co-users or collaborators in order to function efficiently and effectively together.

The paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3 is modified to correct the spelling of "mulitiplicity" to "multiplicity".

Referring now to Figure 1, a block diagram of a hierarchical component categorization according to the system of the present invention, generally referenced as 10, is shown. The method begins with the inputting of patent or technology elements or components, generally referenced as 12, into a data processor, such as a computer, by at least one user via an input device, e.g., computer keyboard, mouse, voice, etc. or

combinations thereof. These components or elements are divided into key components or key elements, including the title 14, function or objective of the technology or invention 16, at least one key component 18, and overall benefit of the invention. The at least one key component 18 of the invention are those essential for functioning of the invention and those that are necessary for providing patentable distinction over the prior art 20, if any. Also, information relating to background and problems 22 may be input into the system as well. These initial or primary inputs are automatically configured into a hierarchical and relational diagrammatic format, which is generated by a software program and which is capable of being viewed by the at least one user on an output device, such as a computer screen, printed document or other tangible form. The at least one key component 18 may also have at least one subcomponent 24 that is relationally and hierarchically connected and configured automatically in the diagrammatic representation of the invention, patent, or technology in association with the at least one key component 18. Additionally, the at least one subcomponent 24 may also have at least one sub-subcomponent 26 that is relationally and hierarchically connected and configured automatically in the diagrammatic representation of the invention, patent, or technology in association with the at least one subcomponent and the related at least one key component 18. As best shown in Figure 2, a ~~mulitplicity~~ multiplicity of key components, subcomponents and sub-subcomponents may be required for an adequate and complete description of the invention to be patented, patented invention, or technology being assessed. Each key component, related subcomponent, and related sub-subcomponents are input by the user(s) and automatically organized in a hierarchical and relational component categorization diagram that may be reconfigured later by the user(s)

and updated automatically in the viewable output. The presentation of the diagram may be vertically oriented, horizontally oriented, or oriented in some other manner without departing from the organized hierarchical and relational categorization and configuration of the components considered within the scope of the present invention.

The paragraph beginning on page 12, line 14 is modified as follows:

Advantageously, the claims output is consistent across technology applications. Thus, regardless of the type of technology that is the subject of the invention, and regardless of the experience of the user(s) or practitioner using the system and method according to the present invention, the claims are automatically generated in a format that conforms to the requirements of a specific patent or intellectual property organization, such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office or with World Intellectual Property Organization. Standard formatting, such as preambles, may also be generated from the inputs and are selectable and modifiable by the user(s) at any point after the initial inputting of the information. Also, standard format claims language may be inserted prior to the description of a component. For example, ~~in figure 3, the~~ where a second claim states "The method according to claim 1, wherein the inputted technology elements are selected from the group consisting of Title, $\geq$1 key component, function, overall benefit, and combinations thereof." In this claim, the phrase "The method according to claim" and "wherein the" are standard format claims language that is repeated in each of the dependent claims. Therefore, the method may automatically include these and other phrases in the claims. Because different formats exist for standard format claims language, phrase may be entered or selected prior to generating

the claims. Additionally, the claims may be outputted such that they are numbered and they contain in them the number of their parent claim where appropriate.

The paragraph beginning on page 15, line 15 is modified to correct the spelling of "verbage" to "verbiage".

At least the following primary steps of the method according to the present invention are necessary:

- at least one user entering information for diagram elements
- the system automatically generating a visual diagram of the elements of the invention in a hierarchical relational diagram
- at least one user entering diagram ~~verbage~~ verbiage by drafting the text-based detailed description or ~~verbage~~ verbiage of the specification section of the application for each key component, subcomponent, and sub-subcomponent of the diagram
- viewing the diagram and text-based information in a tangible medium, including but not limited to a viewer screen on an electronic data processor or computer, a printed document, and the like.

The paragraph beginning on page 16, line 15 is modified to correct the spelling of "verbage" to "verbiage".

Entering additional specification and/or claims text or ~~verbage~~ verbiage may be done directly in the text-based portion of the document by the user(s) at any time after the initial text-based portion has been inputted by the user(s). The automatic claims

construction includes the creation of prefixes or preambles or other introductory langauage, suffixes or termination language, transition or connective language relating parts within the claim or between/among claims, all of which are editable by the user(s); also, custom claim text or ~~verbage~~ verbiage may be input when prompted automatically or later during editing by the user(s).

The paragraph beginning on page 20, line 15 is modified as follows:

Other program features of the software may advantageously include:

- Enhanced and streamline GUI that provides a professional interface complete ~~will~~ with all standard features of modern Windows applications (cut and paste, multi-document support, multiple file export formats, etc.); note that LINUX or other operating system structures are contemplated within the scope of the present invention
- Help dialogs accessible within the program operation by user(s)
- Graphical "bubble diagram" views of the diagram and document, complete with ability to click and drag elements to new locations; from this view user(s) may intelligently move elements around to make diagram aesthetically pleasing without departing from the hierarchical and relational structure of the component diagram
- Enhanced sharing and editing features that permit multiple users, including practitioners, clients and law firms to concurrently develop or view the diagram and/or document

The paragraph beginning on page 22, line 1 is modified as follows:

This linked tree structure enables elements to be easily moved, sorted, and graphically rendered with a minimum of processing delay and memory usage. The element class also contains information about whether or not an element is simply a component of its parent or represents a dependent claim, as well as other information to facilitate ~~east~~ easy manipulation of the data.

The paragraph beginning on Page 22, line 6 is modified as follows:

Drafting a patent application or technology assessment document using the system and software according to the present invention consists of three primary steps by a user:

- Setting up a new diagram is simply entering the client ~~and~~ , invention and/or inventor names and assigning the diagram a docket number, where appropriate, particularly if a practitioner is drafting the application on behalf of a client/inventor.
- Entering diagram elements involves entering information from which a visual diagram of the elements of the invention is automatically constructed in a hierarchical relational diagram
- Entering diagram ~~verbage~~ verbiage involves drafting the text-based detailed description or ~~verbage~~ verbiage of the specification section of the application for each key component, subcomponent, and sub-subcomponent of the diagram.

The paragraph beginning on page 23, line 6 is modified to correct the spelling of "verbage" to "verbiage".

Entering additional specification and/or claims text or ~~verbage~~ verbiage may be done directly in the text-based portion of the document by the user(s) at any time after the initial text-based portion has been inputted by the user(s). The automatic claims construction includes the creation of prefixes or preambles or other introductory langauage, suffixes or termination language, transition or connective language relating parts within the claim or between/among claims, all of which are editable by the user(s); also, custom claim text or ~~verbage~~ verbiage may be input when prompted automatically or later during editing by the user(s).

The paragraph beginning on page 23, line 17 is modified to correct the spelling of "mulitiplicity" to "multiplicity".

Certain modifications and improvements will occur to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the foregoing description. By way of example, alternative representations of the hierarchical diagrammatic representation of components of a patent or technology are possible without departing from the scope of the present invention. The vertical and horizontal-based diagrams set forth hereinabove are simply one preferred embodiment set forth for facilitating the description of the present invention. Also, a ~~mulitplicity~~ multiplicity of users may be working on the same patent application at the same time, via a connection of computers or data processing devices that provides for intercommunication electronically between the devices used by different users; integration of the work of the multiplicity of users is provided automatically by the system and method of the present invention. Also, application of the system and method according to the present invention may be employed for patent and/or technology

mapping to graphically or diagrammatically identify and/or describe the scope and depth of a particular patent or patent portfolio, grouping of patents, competitive intellectual property and technology and/or technology distribution within any industry, market, or technology application. All modifications and improvements have been deleted herein for the sake of conciseness and readability but are properly within the scope of the following claims.